

# THE OBSERVER



VOLUME 71

September 25, 2003

Issue 2

## Cable Confusion Cleared

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

Most of the student body, at least, those whose emails accounts are up and running, received an email from Ernest Watson last week notifying the student body that the college was switching cable providers. Our cable would now be provided by Dish TV, and we could look forward to seeing some new channels we would be receiving as a result. Many students had complained about the poor quality of the cable network last year, but surprisingly, this was not one of the reasons we changed providers. According to Watson, "Number one, the company we had before went out of business. Also, our equipment was outdated; it really should have been replaced three or four years ago. We were also paying a lot of money for pretty poor service. When Dish TV came out with this new package, which included upgrading all of our equipment for free, we decided to change. In addition to this, we will receive free repairs for any problems that occur at the head (main) end." Clearly, Dish TV made an offer that was too good to pass up, and the College decided to change the cable over.

On the downside, however, is that it will take a few weeks to get the new cable totally up and running and have a clear picture campus wide.



Watson explained, "The picture will be improving, but we have to go dorm to dorm, amplifying the signal as we go. We will be starting with Schwietermann and then work our way around campus from there. In the next few weeks, we will be working on the picture, but for the time being some dorms may have a fuzzier picture than others." As the work on the system continues and progresses around campus, students will begin to notice the vast improve-

ment in the quality of the reception. As for those in Schwietermann, they have already noticed the difference. Sophomore Amie White commented that at the beginning of the day the reception was "terrible," but by late afternoon "the channels were coming in perfectly."

Many students have also noticed that the Puma Movie Channel has been out of commission since the start of school. Students may be surprised to find that the problem does not lie with changing cable providers. According to Watson, "It's a mystery. I have checked the wiring in the building, and I couldn't find anything. We are bringing out a land expert next week, so hopefully he can determine the problem and we can get the channel up and running again."

The best thing for the student body to keep in mind is that the cable switch will take some time to perfect, so please be patient for the next couple of weeks. There are also wiring problems to work around as well, so bear in mind that this is an involved process. However, soon SJC will be enjoying the benefits of better service, new channels, and a clearer picture.

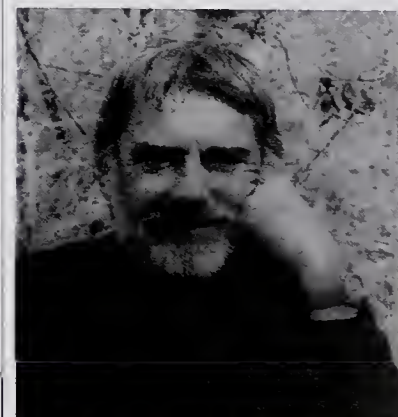
## Gary Gildner to Visit SJC

By Angela Williams, Staff Writer

At 8 p.m. this Thursday night, September 25, Gary Gildner will conduct a reading which is being sponsored by the College's English Department and the Prairie Arts Council. All are invited to attend and share in what promises to be an enjoyable, relaxing evening. The reading will be held in the Courtney Auditorium. After the reading, materials will be available for purchase.

Gildner has published 18 books including novels, memoirs, poetry collections, and short stories for which he has received many awards. Some of his works include Blue Like the Heavens: New & Selected Poems, The Second Bridge, A Week in South Dakota, and The Warsaw Sparks. Among Gildner's many accomplishments include receiving the National Magazine Award for Fiction, the Robert Frost Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Williams Carlos Williams and Theodore Roethke poetry prizes, and the Pushcart Prize in fiction and non-fiction. He has worked as the writer-in-residence at Reed College, Davidson College, Seattle University, and Michigan State University and currently resides in the Clearwater Mountains of Idaho.

Additionally, Gildner will be attending Dr. Charley Kerlin's Creative Writing Fiction class, where he will give feedback to students on their short stories.



Gary Gildner; photo courtesy of SJC English Department

## Taize Prayer Services Come to SJC

By Becky Scherer, Editor in Chief

On September 12<sup>th</sup> the Campus Ministry group of Saint Joseph's College hosted the first in a series of Taize prayer services in the Saint Joseph's Chapel.

A meditative ecumenical prayer service generally consisting of singing simple refrains in English, Latin, French, Spanish, and German, Taize services incorporate psalm and gospel readings, short periods of silence for meditation, and prayers of petition. SJC's services will conclude in less than one hour and will be illuminated entirely by candlelight.

Spearheading the Taize project is SJC Director of Music Ministries and Chapel Organist John Ligda, a senior Music major at SJC. Having been a part of several Taize services himself, Ligda believes the SJC services will prove to be a "wonderful way for Christians to come together and pray in a close-knit

community such as SJC. Because the [Taize] service is non-denominational, it will be an effective way for many stu-

“  
Taize was the perfect  
release after a  
stressful week.

--Casey Wagner, '05

”

dents and members of the community of different faiths to gather together to pray in a comfortable environment.”

Bridget Newman, a senior Mass

Communications major at SJC and choir-participant in the September 12<sup>th</sup> Taize service, was moved by the style and attendance of the service. "The Chapel was an ideal setting for Taize," she stated. "It was very comfortable and reflective."

The September 12<sup>th</sup> service was one of many. Additional services will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, January 16<sup>th</sup>, and February 13<sup>th</sup>, all in the Saint Joseph's Chapel at 8:00 p.m. "I hope that Taize will become an SJC tradition," Ligda said, "and will grow in time, hopefully to include the participation of members of Rensselaer area churches."

To become involved in the setup, choral performances, or instrumentation of Taize, contact John Ligda at jlg3619@saintjoe.edu or Ary Nelson at aryn@saintjoe.edu.

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ET CETERA  
PUMA POETRY



## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

"Why does the Core Program suck so bad?" was the question posed by a freshman nursing student who was hanging out near my room last weekend. It is a common expression among first-year students at SJC, and from some upperclassmen, as well. Five weeks into the academic year, I understand that the reading load is quite heavy, and soon enough, papers will need to be turned in. In response to this loaded question, however, I felt it was appropriate to discuss positive dimensions of the Core curriculum which are rarely discussed among students.

Political conservative and religious traditionalist were fair descriptions of myself upon arriving on campus as a freshman, wide-eyed and ready for the college experience. I chose this particular school based on location and financial assistance. I knew that the school was ranked "Second Tier" for its academics, so that was good enough for me. I knew that it was a liberal arts institution, but I was not exactly sure what that meant. There were more important things than academics at that point in my life.

I knew about the Core program before arriving on campus. I looked forward to particular dimensions of the curriculum but remained apprehensive

about subject matters such as math and science. As I began participating in Core, however, my attitude began to shift. I learned about the history of the Greeks, Romans, and Hebrews, our culture, and our religious tradition, beginning with our Jewish ancestors and extending through the life of Jesus and the Christian church. I began to notice, almost immediately, that many long-held misconceptions of mine were being replaced by more factual accounts of history. Our parents and early educators paint a pretty picture of life for us, but sooner and later, we are exposed to another perspective, often more historically accurate. The Core program depicts human history, church history, and American history in a reasonably fair manner. We are exposed to diverse resources and encouraged to criticize or agree with them in our discussion groups.

As junior year approached, I remained hesitant about studying science. High school biology, chemistry, and physics were not intriguing. Not before long, however, the study of cosmic, biological, and cultural evolution fascinated me. I discovered that revolutionary scientific theories impact my own life, society, and multiple academic fields. Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud made tremendous contributions to our

understanding of the world and human beings. Now I ask: "What are our contemporary cultural limitations and how are these affecting our perception of reality?"

Finally realizing the importance of bridging together various academic disciplines, I began to understand the meaning of a liberal arts education. Philosophy students like myself may define liberal arts using strong language, such as "an academic curriculum which frees individuals from the bonds of ignorance, serving as a liberating force which supports and enhances the freedom of the individual." Today, the former labels of political conservative and religious traditionalist no longer apply. It would be more accurate to portray myself as a liberal and freethinking individual who diligently searches for truth without fearing a dramatic change in previously held perceptions and personal opinions. Intellectual conversion is humbling, and often accompanied by confusion, criticism, and pain. Yet it is definitely worth the effort!

So I return to the popular question: "Why does the Core program suck so bad"? It does not! We have a choice: remain uncritical and bored with school or engage in a liberating force that is sure to change our lives.

-- Luke Hansen, □04

## WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

*SJC Alumni testimonies concerning the Core program*

Larry Laudick, Senior V.P. and General Controller for Wendy's International, Inc.: "In the corporate world, you are often put into situations where you have to make tough decisions. Saint Joseph's helped me to learn what is right and wrong and gave me the strength to stand up for what I believe."

Tom Mooney, Chief of Staff for the House International Relations Committee in the United States Congress: "My professors at SJC were tough, training me for law school and beyond. I did a lot of research and writing. They wanted cogent arguments and they were sticklers for flawless execution. That attention to detail has led me to where I am."

Dr. Eric J. Boos, author, Fulbright Scholar, and professor at Edgewood College, Wisconsin: "Core forces students to ask questions, challenge ideas from their peers, and see that they are connected to what happens around the world. It structures them to take responsibility for the ideas they hold as well as become well practiced in the art of dialogue." He added, "Where I am in my life right now is the culmination of my Core experience, and I am indebted to Saint Joseph's College for that."

*Quotes compiled by Luke Hansen through the use of various SJC publications.*

## PAWS:

To the Computer Club students involved in the Techies organization.



## CLAWS:

To the students who ruined the decorations at SUB's 1980s-themed Puma Rave on 9/20/03.

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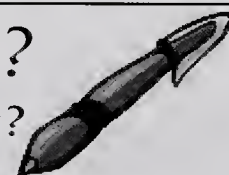


Won an award? Aced a project?  
Landed a role in the school play?  
Accepted an internship?

If you have an accomplishment that you'd like to share with your hometown newspaper, fill out a "Student Achievement Form" so the Office of Publications and Media Relations can issue a news release about you! News can also be submitted to Director Bree Ma'Ayteh by e-mailing breain@saintjoe.edu or calling extension 6177. Forms can also be faxed to her at 866-6354.

To access the form online, visit the "Current Students" OR "News" link on the SJC Web site and click on "Student Achievement Form."

Do you love to write?  
Want to see your art in print?



Measure, SJC's very own literary magazine, needs a new front cover, and the staff has decided to open the floor to the SJC community. All forms of artwork are accepted: computer graphics, drawings, paintings, sculptings, etc.

For more information, contact:

Professor Bonnie Zimmer, bonniez@saintjoe.edu  
Measure Editor Tony Salati, ash4176@saintjoe.edu  
Measure Production Editor Becky Scherer,  
rsh4164@saintjoe.edu.



# HOMECOMING: '003

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4



7:30 a.m. – 5K Fun Run/Walk; start at Core Building parking lot

9:30 a.m. – “Reflections”: President Mills will address the state of SJC; Core Building

Alumni Baseball Game

10:00 a.m. – Alpha Lambda Delta Induction Ceremony; Shen Auditorium

10:00 a.m. – “Ten Most Endangered Landmarks in Indiana”; Courtney Auditorium

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Laser Tag; near football field

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Residence Hall Open Houses

10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Beer and Brat Tent Opens

10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Kids’ Art Tent Opens; located next to Beer and Brat Tent

11:00 a.m. – Drexel Hall Outdoor Tour

Noon – Homecoming Football Game; SJC vs. Kentucky Wesleyan

Noon – Little Puma Spy Camp; Jasper County Youth Center

5:00 p.m. – Mass

6:00 p.m. – Casino Royale; Halleck Student Center Ballroom

8:00 p.m. – Mission Improvable; Science Building Auditorium

## 5K Fun Run/Walk Makes For a Healthy Homecoming

By: Renee Pugh, News Editor

One of the events taking place during SJC’s Homecoming/Parents’ Weekend is the Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by the College’s Alumni Association. The Fun Run/Walk begins at 7:30 a.m. on October 4.

This year’s course will take runners, joggers and walkers through a variety of pockets on campus. “President and Mrs. Mills will be walking the route as well, giving participants a chance to speak with the president in an informal setting,” said Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Kendra Berenda. “We felt the need to offer something to people who are active, and this is a fun

activity with the president that promotes good health.”

For those running in the 5K, there will be a \$5 fee, as prizes will be awarded. Those walking the course may do so for free. Shower facilities will be made available after the run in the Hanson Recreation Center, and breakfast will be offered at the Halleck Student Center Cafeteria for \$4.25 per person.

To sign up for the 5K Fun Run/Walk, or for more information, contact Berenda at (219)866-6428 or at

## SJC Homecoming Means Fun for Pumas of All Ages

By Renee Pugh, News Editor

Homecoming/Parents’ Weekend at SJC promises excitement for Pumas of all ages, as more family events have been scheduled into this year’s slate of events. The annual celebration weekend will take place Oct. 3-5.

For young Pumas itching to display their creative side, a children’s art tent, will be sponsored by the SJC Alumni Association and supervised by SJC’s art department. “The tent is free, supervised, and open all day,” explained Berenda. “It is connected to the (Food and Beverage) Tent, so parents can still see their children.”

Additional family-friendly activities that will be offered free of charge include laser tag and game booths sponsored by the Student Union Board, as well as an art exhibit and improv group “Mission Improvable.” These activities were added in an effort to make Homecoming/Parents’ Weekend at SJC family-friendly and inviting for Pumas of all ages. “We wanted families to feel welcome over the weekend,” said Berenda.

For more Homecoming 2003 information, contact Berenda at (219) 866-6428 or at

## Casino Royale: Gambling on Fun

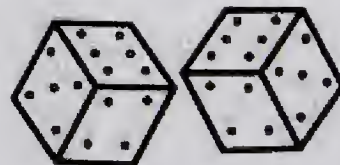
By: Becky Scherer, Editor-in-Chief

As SJC prepares campus for its annual Homecoming/Parents’ Weekend on October 3rd-5th, it extends a special invitation to alumni, parents, and students to attend the slate of events scheduled around this year’s “James Bond” theme. One of those events is “Casino Royale,” which is named after a James Bond film and will take place on October 4th at 8:00 p.m. in the Ballroom. In the true spirit of James Bond, “Casino Royale,” will feature a night of gaming and live music.

Sponsored by SJC’s Alumni Association, participants in “Casino Royale” will be given \$10,000 of play chips. (Additional chips can be received for a small donation.) At the tables, the standard minimum bid is set for \$1,000, and games to be offered include blackjack, baby craps, red-dog, slot machines, and roulette. SJC faculty, staff, and students will be professionally trained to run the tables, and all participants will have opportunities to receive prizes donated by the Alumni Association and

local businesses. (Note: Gaming is for entertainment purposes only.) Live swing and big band music will be provided by “The Melody Aces.”

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Kendra Berenda, Chair of the weekend’s events, wanted to offer more activities on campus for those alumni who travel long distances to return to SJC. “I also believe ‘Casino Royale’ will be a fun way to attract younger alumni,” she said.





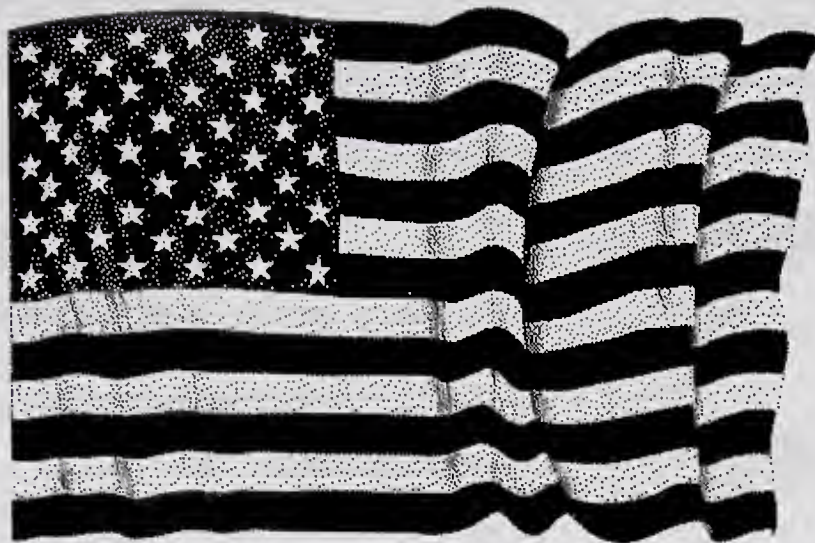
# 9/11 Vigil: Student Reflection

By: Natalie Lapacek,  
Features Editor

As I walked out of my Basic Layout and Design class on the night of September 11<sup>th</sup>, I considered treading back to my room to finish some homework I had been putting off and then catching up on some much needed sleep. I remembered, though, that Professor Kingman had let us out of that class early because of the candlelight vigil.

I must admit that September 11<sup>th</sup> is something I've never liked pondering about for a long period of time; the catastrophic events and the numerous lives lost just disturb me beyond anything. So throughout the anniversary of the tragic happenings, I didn't want to think about it more than I had to, selfishly enough.

Nevertheless, the whispering



wall was on my way back to Halas, so I figured I would stop and pay my respects. I didn't expect many students to be there, but many had come to this gathering. I took my tea candle in a plastic cup, and found a place at the wall.

As I listened to the poetry read by other students, I began to remember everything about 9/11. I remembered how I was in school that day, how I didn't even know what was going on until I saw a plane crashing into the

World Trade Center on television, and how afraid and horrified I was. I remembered how I had thanked God I was in my otherwise loathed small town, safe and away from terrorists.

That night I prayed for all the lives lost and the families who are still mourning their loved ones. I prayed that God would be with us in America, even if some people want to push Him out; I prayed that He would lead us to peace, and keep us from violence and bloodshed. And I apologized to Him, for being selfish on a day when everyone in this nation needed to come together to remember the fateful happenings two years ago.

I commend those who organized SJC's Candlelight Vigil, reminding us that we need to take some time to reflect on what has happened, consider our own situations, and to seek guidance from God and each other.

## Stuff

John Ligda  
Columnist



Welcome to *Stuff*: the column that presents factual tidbits about SJC.

Written by the coolest, best looking guy on campus, *Stuff* will fill your minds with interesting knowledge about your college: little known facts that you could only otherwise learn by talking with such professors as Fr. Gerlach or Dr. Egan. *Stuff* will attempt to familiarize you with the people, places, and events that make SJC the place it is today.

Why call the column *Stuff*? I named the column *Stuff* in honor of the original campus newspaper. Until just eight years ago, the college newspaper was called *Stuff*. Few students know that at one time *Stuff* was considered one of the leading student newspapers in the nation. Between 1965 and 1983, Mr. Charles J. Schuttrow, '63, was the faculty advisor to *Stuff* as well as Director of News Bureau and Sports Information. In his 18 years as advisor, *Stuff* received numerous awards for excellence in journalism; for 33 consecutive semesters, *Stuff* received the Associated Collegiate Press All American Award, the highest-ranking award for print media. SJC is the second college in the Associated Collegiate Press history to receive the award for such a lengthy amount of time. One year, *Stuff* received the Indiana Collegiate Press award for fewest typo-

graphical errors (average 1.2 per issue).

It was only in 1983 when Mr. Schuttrow resigned that the long running streak of awards came to an end. The issue immediately following Schuttrow's resignation featured an editorial explaining the importance of the name "Stuff". "Tradition is an important part of it. The name 'Stuff' was chosen because the word represented raw material to be worked out into something else. The raw material of our minds and souls is being turned to the making of a finished product."

While, over the years, the staff continued to change, the name did not. In fact, a few issues of an underground newspaper called *The Ledge* emerged in the late 1980's. The paper sought to poke fun at the college and administration referring to the school as "Sand Chose-Ups Cow-Ledge," or "The Ledge" for short. It provided a sounding board for students to voice their opinion anonymously. A professor encouraged the name and a few articles for the underground newspaper. One particular issue of *The Ledge* poked fun at *Stuff* by creating a phony front page called "Fluff." The headline read, "Leaky Water Fountain Plagues Merlini Hall."

In December 1995, the editorial staff changed the newspaper's name to "The Observer" because "'Stuff' was not an appropriate name for a college publication. It is no longer a name we can take pride in and we hope the new name will reflect the pride we have in the student newspaper."

We take much pride in our student newspaper; not just for the name, but also for the content and the people who contribute to its worthy cause. *Stuff* is part of our history and there would be no *Observer* without *Stuff*.

## Musings of an SJC Freshman

A student shares his views on college life

By: Joe Larson, Staff Writer

I have been at Saint Joseph's College for a about a month, and in that time I have assumed the manners and customs of rural Indiana. Perhaps the most challenging part of my assimilation has been the isolation. It is difficult to get used to living in an area where the average population density is zero. That figure may be slightly inaccurate (possibly because I made it up), but the point remains that Rensselaer is not exactly a metropolis. To be perfectly honest, my hometown is somewhat similar to Rensselaer, but many people have much different origins. Culture shock is a very real risk for people coming from places like Chicago or Indianapolis. Symptoms of this debilitating condition include indigestion and nightmares about corn.

Fortunately, there is more to college than adjustment disorders. Life on campus has been a blast, but not in the literal sense because the use of explosives is generally frowned upon on college grounds. The first few days gave me a clear idea about what to expect in the coming academic year. The Puma Olympics taught me useful skills that are essential for scholastic success, like how to wrap teammates in toilet paper. Orientation also taught me that every academic building, dorm room, and shrub on campus has at least two dozen ghost stories associated with it. It is the duty of our class to carry on this interesting- if not somewhat disturbing- oral tradition to harass the next generation freshmen. College, however, is about more than just ghost stories. It is also about being produc-

tive. I was initially overwhelmed by the sheer amount of free time involved with college life, but I soon found new and better ways of squandering it. Thanks to my efforts, I am proud to report that I am now almost always short on time.

Despite this minor inconvenience, college life would still be nearly perfect if it was not for the classes. The whole learning process tends to take a lot of effort that could be better spent elsewhere. I would not mind classes as much if it was not for an interesting phenomenon that I have come to associate with higher education. It seems that papers and tests have a way of lurking just out of notice until due dates suddenly arrive and life erupts into a molten flood of learning-induced destruction. This might have something to do with my chronic procrastination, but it could just as easily be related to a secret vendetta that all of my professors have against me for no particular reason. After all, the forces of random misfortune are what make life, and especially school, so interesting. Saint Joseph's College is probably full of such fun and fascinating lessons that are guaranteed to make one wonder how many days there are between now and Christmas Break. Aside from the work, however, I have been enjoying myself at college, and I look forward to the rest of the year.

If you would like to write for the Features section email Natalie at [nli4438@saintjoe.edu](mailto:nli4438@saintjoe.edu)



## Student Review: Adam Wyle

By: Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

You've probably never heard of Adam Wyle—at least I hadn't until I visited the HUB on Friday, September 12. The room was moderately full of students ready to hear some great music, and I have to admit that I was expecting the same. The first unexpected thing was when the band went up to the microphone—or the man, rather. For some reason Puma rumors hadn't reached me to say that Wyle's band had been in a wreck and that Adam was the only musician to perform. After an initial adjustment, I decided that this change just might be better; I'm into coffeehouse music, anyway.

So the band played on, as the saying goes. Most of his songs were well received, and a few were actually pretty good; however, I didn't exactly find his impromptu concert enjoyable. The most obvious musical transgression he made was the similitude between all the songs he performed. Though the lyrics were different, his style led him to perform each song the exact same way; granted, he's a talented musician, but this doesn't make him a good performer, for that he would have to practice *variety*.

Also, throughout the course of his performance, he played some older tunes, most noticeably "For What It's Worth." Although this song is usually very fluid rhythmically, his super-fast

guitar playing totally threw the piece out of whack to the ear that is used to the original by Buffalo Springfield. This faux pas, however, may be attributed to the fact that his band was not present.

Though the show obviously hit a sour note with me, I do commend Wyle for putting together such an eclectic group of original music on his albums. The lyrics to some of them are almost hilarious and very enjoyable to hear. For those students wanting to hear more of Adam Wyle's music, his most recent album, *Proof*, is available on his website AdamWyle.com, and one of his new singles, "Lose Yourself," is to be featured in the movie *Drop Dead Roses*, which is due out this fall.



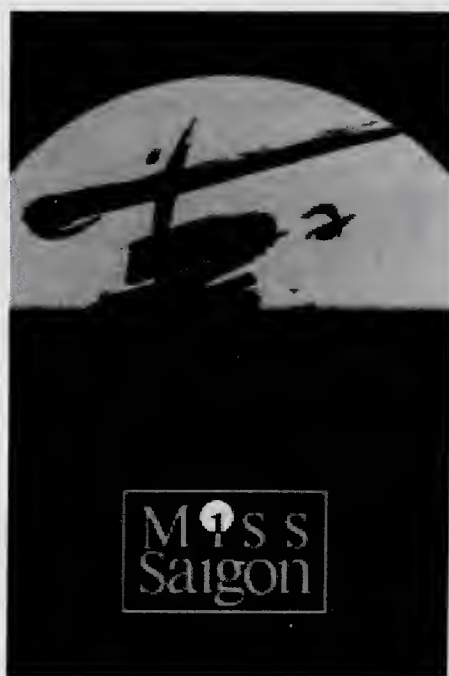
Photo courtesy of AdamWyle.com

## Miss Saigon: Musical with Credentials

The first time I saw *Miss Saigon*, I was fifteen years old and it was at the Madame Walker Theatre. Even though I knew what the story was about, the musical left me speechless. I felt what the characters felt and was with them when they cried, discovered new love, and held on tight when hope seemed to fail. Unforgettable songs such as "The Heat is On in Saigon," "The Movie in My Mind," "Why God Why," and "The American Dream" impressively invoke the steamy nights, crowds, passion and danger of Saigon.

Written by Alain Boublil and Claude Michel-Schönberg, *Miss Saigon* is one of the biggest stage successes ever, raking in more than \$1.3 billion at the international box office since its world premiere in London in September 1989.

*Miss Saigon* took its final curtain call on December 31, 2000, after an al-



most 10 year-run on Broadway. *Miss Saigon*, a Vietnam War era musical, will have played its 4,063rd performance. The well-loved story follows the ro-

mance between an American soldier and a young Vietnamese woman. It is the story of two young lovers torn apart by the fortunes of destiny and held together by a burning passion and the fate of a small child.

The story revolves around Kim, a young Vietnamese woman who is forced to work in a sex shop in Saigon. She quickly falls in love with Chris, a Marine guard at the U.S. embassy, but when Saigon falls and the old city disappears forever under the red banners and yellow stars of the Viet Cong, Chris—not realizing that Kim is pregnant—is forced to retreat. He returns home and eventually marries, but a few years later, he and his wife return to find Kim, who is now determined to make Chris take

their son back to the United States.

The musical is a modern take on Belasco/Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. It opened on Broadway, April 11, 1991, starring Jonathan Pryce and Lea Salonga. The long-running London production closed last October, shortly after a 10th anniversary celebration.

*Miss Saigon* received 11 Tony nominations in 1991, including Best Musical, and won three (for Pryce and Salonga as Actor and Actress in a Musical, and Hinton Battle as Best Featured Actor). *Miss Saigon* also received the Outer Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical.

## 100 Word Movie Review:



Directed by: Woody Allen

Starring: Jason Biggs, Christina Ricci, Woody Allen, Stockard Channing, and Danny Devito

Woody Allen is a genius; actually, I think he just has a better sense of reality than most screenwriters. Jerry Falk (Biggs) cannot leave anyone – his incompetent therapist, his manager, his girlfriends, or New York. Amanda (Ricci) cannot commit. It is the perfect setup for a great flick if written right, which Allen does. The film portrays relationships realistically. The actors, especially Ricci, make their neurotic characters charming. It's NOT a romantic comedy like the teasers, well, teased, which turned a majority of the audience off when I went. Most popular critics hate it, too, proving it's a great flick

-reviewed by Melissa Genova

## Styling Sense: Creating Utopia in a Box

Jen Zak  
Columnist



Are you already tired of your dorm room? Did the poster sale fail to make your tiny living space look like home? To create the kind of atmosphere that promotes multi-functional living you need to establish your room as a space that can be both practical and expressive of your personality.

Almost all dorm rooms across the country have one thing in common: a severe lack of space and furniture that never quite seems to fit.

There are some cheap and easy ways to make your home away from home a little more cozy. Make the walls warmer by hanging up tap-

estries, fabric or butcher/contact paper that you can write on or decorate. Spruce up your room with a plant or floral arrangement to add color and life (\$1.50-\$7 at Wal-Mart). To add space to a room try buying some long mirrors (\$5-\$10 at Wal-Mart).

Most importantly, experiment with your furniture arrangements. If you live in a dorm that has moveable closets, place them away from the walls and use them to separate spaces for more variety.

Although it can be frustrating to live in a room that has to serve as a bedroom, study, living room, and kitchen, making the best of it is our only option. Bottom line: If a room reflects you and your roommates' tastes, it will be much more comfortable for each of you to live in.

Always remember when arranging your room to respect your other roommates' wishes, as well as the rules set forth in the Puma Guide.



## Adam Mandon Speaks On College Football

The 2003 college football season has many questions. How will Ohio State rebound after losing Maurice Clarett? Will Brock Berlin do half of what Ken Dorsey did at the quarterback position at Miami? Does head coach Bobby Bowden still have the passion to coach at Florida State? The one question I can answer is this: Who will win the National Championship? The answer is the Michigan Wolverines.

Michigan has the most balanced offense in the country. Fifth year season quarterback John Navarre is on a mission this season. He has been an underrated passer for far too long; last year he set the school record for most passing yards in a season (2,905). He has always had the size and arm strength to be one of the best quarterbacks in the league. This year he adds intelligence and experience against the rest of the Big Ten, and the nation.

A quarterback is only as good as his wingman. For Navarre, that man is Chris Perry. The senior tailback can beat defenders on

the outside, inside, and block. He creates large gains using his speed and agility; he lowers his shoulder and runs over a blitzing safety. He has great vision; he sees the field, knows when holes will develop and always has option B in his mind if A fails. Perry is also one of the best receiving running backs in the nation. Soft hands and decisiveness make him dangerous in every facet of the game. Put Perry's name on the plaque now because he will win the Heisman.

Every week Michigan has a strong, talented opponent in the Big Ten. There will be no let-downs. There will be no oversights. Michigan will come ready to play as hard as they can every single week.

One final intangible for Michigan is Ohio State's Buckeyes capture of the National Championship last year. The wolverines are starving; they know getting through the Bucks will capture the crown. Prediction: This year Ohio State and Michigan will square off in the Big House. Final score:

Michigan 23 Ohio 17

## Attention:

Fans ~ Coaches ~  
Teammates

If you would like to nominate a student as the athlete of the issue, please contact Sports Editor Bridget Newman; bnh3998@saintjoe.edu. Briefly explain why you believe the athlete deserves to be praised!

## A Great Sports Quote

Your opponent, in the end, is never really the player on the other side of the net, or the swimmer in the next lane, or the team on the other side of the field, or even the bar you must high-jump. Your opponent is yourself, your negative internal voices, your level of determination.

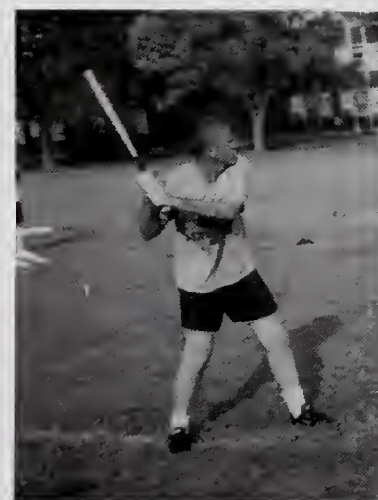
--Grace Lichtenstein American Writer & Editor



# SJC



# Fan Club



# Let's

# Go

# Pumas



# Hello, Newman; Hello, IM's

**Bridget Newman**  
Editor-in-Chief

The Intramural (IM) sports have undergone major change since the new Director of Student Activities Aaron Newman stepped up to the plate. Newman has created the commission, a group of five to seven students each year, who are responsible for keeping score, making brackets, being officials, and they also run the sign-ups.

Changes have been made not only in the staffing of the sports, but in the organization and rules. For example, there is a 25-dollar entrance fee per IM team for all league sports. If a team forfeits one game without contacting the commission this money is used as a fine. If the team does not forfeit any games, 20 dollars is returned to the team; five dollars is kept by the Office of Student Activities to help the costs of running the IM's.

The number of IM's throughout the academic year has greatly increased. There is an IM sport taking place every week.

There is more than softball, soc-

cer, football, basketball and volleyball. Other IM's include: kickball, frisbee golf, videogames, trivia, food contests, snow man contests, floor hockey, pub sports (such as pool and darts), dodge ball, hearts, bowling, ultimate frisbee, human foosball, a homerun derby, fishing, and track.

If a student is interested in participating but is not part of a team, there is now a free agents program. This allows students who are not on a team to either be added to another team's roster or be part of a team of free agents.

Newman is excited about all

the changes in the IM's and hopes that students realize IM's can be for everyone, not just the collegiate athletes.

If you are interested in participating, you can contact Director of Student Activities Aaron Newman by phone or e-mail; you can also look for him in his office on the second floor of the Halleck Center. More information can also be found on the IM bulletin board in Halleck and in the *Observer* newspaper. IM softball is currently underway; up next look for sign-up's outside the cafeteria for Frisbee golf and kickball.



**Newman**  
with  
students  
during  
IM soft-  
ball

## IM Standings

**Compiled by**  
**Casey Wagner**

### SOFTBALL As of Sunday

1st Place Chick Magnets  
2nd Place Dream Team  
3rd Place Top Flight Rebels  
4th Place Amish Mafia  
5th Place Free Agents

**Softball Championship:**  
**Friday, September 26th,**  
**@ 5:00 pm**

### FRISBEE GOLF September 20th

1st Place Track Team  
2nd Place Amish Mafia

### IM CUP POINTS As of Sunday

**1st Place Track Team**  
30 For 1st place in Frisbee Golf  
+ 4 for team member participation  
**2nd Place Amish Mafia**  
25 For 2nd place in Frisbee Golf  
+ 4 for team member participation

**Kickball Begins:**  
**Monday, September 29th**

### **September/October** **IM Schedule**

#### **League Play**

IM Kickball 9/29 to 10/16  
IM Flag Football 10/20 to 11/6

#### **Single Event Play**

Frisbee Golf 9/27  
Video Game Challenge 10/18 & 10/25

## Upcoming Puma Games



**Women's Golf**  
September 26-27  
Away, 1:00pm  
DePauw Invite

**Men's Golf**  
September 29-30  
Away, 10:00am  
Southern Indiana

**Women's Tennis**  
September 30  
Away, 3:00pm  
Grace

October 4  
Away, TBA  
Marian

**Men's Tennis**  
October 4  
Home, TBA  
Marian & Alumni Match

**Cross-Country**  
October 4  
Away, TBA  
Indiana State

**Volleyball**  
September 26  
Away, 7:00pm  
Southern Indiana

September 27  
Away, 1:00pm  
Kentucky Wesleyan

**Women's Soccer**  
September 26  
Home, 5:00pm  
Missouri-St. Louis

September 28  
Home, 12:00pm  
Southern Indiana

**Men's Soccer**  
September 26  
Home, 7:30pm  
Missouri-St. Louis

September 28  
Home, 2:30pm  
Southern Indiana

**Football**  
September 27  
Away, 6:00pm  
Southern Illinois

**If you are interested in writing for the sports pages**  
**contact Bridget Newman at [bnh3998@saintjoe.edu](mailto:bnh3998@saintjoe.edu)**



Animal

Anagrams

By Thomas A. Smith Jr.

The following word pairs are anagrams which can be combined to form the name of an animal or insect. However, be careful. A few of the pairs include one extra letter just to make things more difficult. Regular anagrams are worth one point; anagrams with one extra letter are worth two points. Good luck!

- 1. lone tape
- 2. cot soup
- 3. evil owner
- 4. camel shone
- 5. stare blanket

Courtesy of www.puzz.com

Answers: 1. anteater; 2. octopus; 3. wolf snake; 4. chameleon; 5. rattlesnake

Horoscopes Predicted by Sandra

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are in a very adventurous mood lately. Try taking a walk or hike to channel your energy. You'll find the most adventure in a place you've never been before. This is an excellent time to surprise a friend with a gift.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself clashing with many of your peers throughout the next few days. Instead of closing your mind off to others' ideas, listen attentively and share your opinions. You may learn something new.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You are shining, and everyone can see it! You're happy to be the person you are, and your individuality and creative person is shining through in everything you do. Be yourself, and be proud of your unique, inner person.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

The past few days have left you craving for alone time, but your life is so busy you have yet to find some. Today, make time for yourself no matter what, and then spend time with friends. Don't neglect yourself in your busy schedule.

Leo (July 23-Aug22)

This is an excellent time to surround yourself with people. There are many ways to do this, including inviting all your friends over, attending a party, or simply walking around a crowded public place. You won't regret doing so.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your leadership skills are outstanding, and you've never felt so much in control. You have the power right now to lead others by example, so remember to set a positive one, as others are watching you!

Libra (September 23-October 23)

It's very important to make decisions quickly, as you are likely to overanalyze situations more than usual. Thinking too much can complicate an otherwise simple situation and cause you unnecessary grief, so take care not to think too much.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

Money is your enemy right now, and it is a good idea not to spend a large amount of it for a few days. Avoid any large business transactions, and refrain from passing on any financial advice to your friends.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your romantic aura is in high-gear, making this the perfect time for you to plan a romantic evening with that special someone. Be sure to devote your time fully to each other, as outside influences could ruin your hopes of a romantic future.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Health is your main concern right now, and it should be your top priority. Be sure to eat well, get enough sleep, and participate in some type of physical activity. Your body will thank you!

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Nonverbal communication is your best bet right now, as your eyes and your body language are speaking much more loudly than your words. Your chances for romance are great if you keep your mouth shut!

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Simplicity is key, and your best bet for success lies in your ability to keep things from becoming too complex. Engage yourself in only the simplest activities, and refrain from over-analyzing your problems.

Today In History:  
Sept. 25

1957: Troops end Little Rock school crisis  
More than 1,000 paratroopers in full battle dress escort nine black children to high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

1975: First Britons conquer Everest  
Douglass Haston and Doug Scott become the first Britons to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.

1983: Dozens escape in Maze break-out  
Thirty-eight prisoners escape from a high-security jail in Northern Ireland.

1996: Taliban gains threaten Kabul  
Opposition fighters in Afghanistan reach the eastern suburbs of Kabul and are poised to take control of the country's capital.

Courtesy of <http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthistday/>

SJC Poet's Corner

The Stuff of Grace

After dozens and dozens and dozens of tests  
They found a lump in my wife's left breast,  
Cancerous and spreading without rest.

I went into shock, I cried and yelled,  
But she was so brave, handled it so well.  
If you didn't know, you couldn't tell.

Through the following months she did what she could  
She underwent chemo and radiation as she should.  
Her body would never remember how to feel good.

I tried to be a man who was tough and strong,  
I cooked and cleaned and sang her our song,  
But I suppose I knew she was dying all along.

There was nothing more for doctors to do.  
It spread too fast without a clue.  
I just couldn't accept it all as true.

On her last day, I sat for hours and held her hand.  
She whispered that I must understand,  
That this is all part of God's great plan.

She said that soon she will be gone  
And that she'll smile whenever I play our song  
And that she was grateful I was so strong.

She said that she would always love me.  
I said she made me the best I could be.  
She closed her eyes, her soul was free.

I'll never know how she was so tough.  
I suppose she's made of stronger stuff;  
I'll always know what Grace is made of.

Though now alone on this bright noon in May  
I thank God for the time we had spent each day  
And for the chance to finish what we'd always wanted to say.

-Bridget Newman

Testimony, Confessions, and challenges of a tainted/Hidden Soul

My inhibitions do not cease  
They grip my soul on a leash  
But no complaint do we hear  
I'm ruled by my foolish sin, I fear  
I want to live a different life  
One that's free of painful strife  
Instead of the normal life they force  
I want to choose my creative source  
I cling to stress everyday  
And lean towards bad, it is my way  
No one here knows of my sin  
I keep it hidden behind a virgin grin  
But that's still good for me to do  
I'd rather no one even knew  
Because the shock I always see  
Changes the view they had of me  
The quiet girl, in the back  
Who always seems to be on track  
My life is driven by chance and fate  
And every place is a new slate  
Not the goody-two-shoes you thought you saw  
Who never got a second glance or drop of jaw  
Over time you'll see me for me  
When I break the boundaries to set me free  
And then you'll find out who I am  
You'll find I'm not the silent lamb  
Until then I'll live my sins  
I'll challenge death and see who wins  
I'll wait for you to search me out  
And then you'll know what I'm about

-Amber Slagall

The Mirror

Where she is safe, she stands  
Grasping her body with her cool hands,  
Until they become clammy with her sweat.  
Slowly she beholds it, a mirror,  
Reflecting her image toward her, and  
Reserved at first she approaches herself.  
Timidly she reaches her hand to touch the other,  
Until her fingertips connect with the cool glass  
And she is shocked by the reality of the mirror.  
Startled she races back to safety  
And glances up, just in time  
To see that her other self is safe as well,  
And she is relieved.

-Sandra Wood

Tender is the Night

Lying here with you on my mind  
Watching the plastic stars twinkle and fade  
Choking and drowning in my own thoughts  
Hiccupping my devotions to a faded picture frame  
Wrapping the blanket around and over me  
Blinding myself so I can't see that you're not really here.

-Susan Kramer

Want to see  
your poetry in print?  
Submit your original  
work of poetry to  
Sandra Wood at  
[sw4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:sw4014@saintjoe.edu)!!

Attention All Students!!

The Observer wants to hear your opinions! Tell us what you like, don't like, or would like to see on the Et Cetera page. We want to hear your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions, so please email them to Sandra at [sw4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:sw4014@saintjoe.edu)!

WANTED:

One or two students who are willing to write a monthly/bi-weekly comic strip to be run on the Et Cetera page of The Observer. Please contact Sandra at [sw4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:sw4014@saintjoe.edu) if interested.